

Appropriations Hearing
February, 16 2016
Jenna Tenore

Hello, I am Jenna Tenore, principal of Goodwin College Early Childhood Magnet School located in East Hartford. We currently serve approximately 365 children from preschool through grade two and we will continue to grow adding a grade each year through fifth grade. I would like to thank all of our Connecticut legislators who are working tirelessly on behalf of the children in Connecticut. Our school is a Reggio Emilia inspired program and as such we embrace a constructivist approach to learning. We work to instill a passion for learning in our children while engaging our families. As a school that embraces project based learning, our units are not pre-determined, but rather they spring from the interests of our children. Our goal is to cultivate children who are able to think and research and explain their learning. This is evidenced in the types of projects that are studied in our classrooms. In addition to traditional projects such as community building, you will walk into classrooms and notice long term studies on doors, ramps, planes or shadows. A kindergarten class began studying about farm to table food production. As the children determined how they would demonstrate their learning, their true project on theatre emerged. The children, wrote, produced and performed a play that was a year long culmination of all that they learned about not only farm to table but theatre production. You may observe a class delving into the creation of books. The authorship, as well as creating books and studying the mechanics of how books are produced, published and distributed. Our children currently travel to our school each day from 36 different towns and communities. This provides an incredible richness in our diversity! Our school provides a small-scale opportunity for our children and families to reach out to one another and travel throughout different communities each and every day, as we learn about our similarities and differences. We embrace a rich learning experience that values our children and their families while cultivating life long learners; able to learn about content, basic skills as well as the crucial proficiencies of compassion and empathy for differences and one another. We sincerely appreciate your consideration as you work on budgets and maintain high quality education as a priority.